

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled, and claims 1, 7, 8 and 12 are amended because of the incorporation of the features of claim 2 into independent claims 1 and 7.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over "Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)". The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The alleged AAPA does not disclose a piezoelectric resonator having a pair of external electrodes electrically connected to a piezoelectric resonator element and being disposed along a shorter latus of a package, as recited in independent claims 1 and 7. As shown in Fig 10C of Applicants' drawings, external electrodes 24a and 24c are electrically connected to piezoelectric resonator element 14, but those electrodes are not disposed along a shorter latus of package 12 because they are disposed on opposite corners of package 12.

The October 5, 2005 Office Action and January 25, 2006 Advisory Action assert that it would have been obvious to rearrange the electrode as recited in independent claims 1 and 7. No support is provided for that assertion. Applicants bring to the Examiner's attention that the asserted modification is not obvious because the external electrodes of the alleged AAPA are placed far apart (at opposite corners of the package) in order prevent any electrical directivity ascribable to mounting of the package and, when the package is made of metal, to electromagnetically shield the interior of the package. See specification at paragraphs [0003] and [0004]. The alleged AAPA thus teaches that these attributes would likely be negated if the alleged AAPA is modified as asserted in the rejection. It is therefore not obvious to modify the alleged AAPA as asserted in the rejection. Furthermore, the asserted modification is not obvious because the piezoelectric oscillator of the pending claims has the advantage of reduced size without parasitic capacitance due to extra wiring. See specification at paragraph [0009].

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the January 25, 2006 Patent Office Communication. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 31, 2006

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